

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 22 are pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 – 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Shen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,644,637). In view of the comments and amendments herein, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that each of claims 1, 7, 13 and 18 have been amended to include a pre-form that is selectively attached to the pallet base to define a position of the modular stanchions along the x and y axes. Shen et al. fails to teach or suggest a pre-form that is selectively attached to the pallet base to define a position of the modular stanchions along the x and y axes. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

With regard to claims 2 – 6, 8 – 12, 14 – 17 and 19 – 22, Applicants note that each ultimately depends from one of claims 1, 7, 13 and 18, which define over the prior art, as discussed in detail above. Therefore, claims 2 – 6, 8 – 12, 14 – 17 and 19 – 22 also define over the prior art for at least the reasons with respect to claims 1, 7, 13 and 18, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sotonyi (U.S. Pat. No. 3,624,799). As discussed in detail above, each of claims 1, 7, 13 and 18 have been amended to include a pre-form that is selectively attached to the pallet base to define a position of the modular stanchions

along the x and y axes. Sotonyi fails to teach or suggest a pre-form that is selectively attached to the pallet base to define a position of the modular stanchions along the x and y axes. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

With regard to claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 21, Applicants note that each ultimately depends from one of claims 1, 7, 13 and 18, which define over the prior art, as discussed in detail above. Therefore, claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 21 also define over the prior art for at least the reasons with respect to claims 1, 7, 13 and 18, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

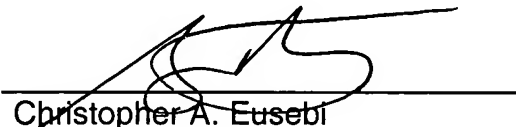
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the General Motors Legal Staff at (313) 665-4708.

Respectfully submitted,

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